

I am outraged over the proposed broadcast flag + conformant hardware requirements being considered by the FCC. If such requirements ever become law, the rights of individuals consumers will have evaporated forever - because once this horse is out of the barn, there will never, ever be any getting it back inside. The Content Cartel will use this law like a club to beat individuals and remove individuals' legal rights to time-shift and make other uses of programming which have been ruled fair in US courts. Dr. Lessig's (of Stanford Law School) arguments here are worth noting: if the Content Cartel can not get copyright and other laws passed which give them the absolute control over content they want, they need only pass regulations regarding hardware. Then, rather than creating restrictions through the open process of bill -> law with public debates and accountability, they simply manipulate technology infrastructure to suit their needs, consumers be damned. WHICH THEY WILL ABSOLUTELY DO if these requirements for broadcast flags and associated hardware become law. Please, please, please do not give the Content Cartel power to control who sees, time-shifts, or uses for educational or other legal purposes television programming. They will be completely without accountability. Any arguments that "the market will take care of the problem" are a total hoax, as the closed-ranks promoting passage of such law are effectively a monopoly. Please, PLEASE do not provide this power without accountability.

Sincerely,

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